

# JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

## ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST, 2014



### Mission Statement:

*To preserve natural resources for public use and conservation, to operate and maintain a parks system with resource oriented recreation, trails and specialty parks; and to expand the parks system for environmental and land use benefits and the health and enjoyment of Jefferson County residents.*



The Jefferson County Parks Department is made up of 16 (full and part-time) employees that oversee, manage and maintain approximately 1020 acres at the 16 County Parks, 31 miles of the Glacial River Bike Trail and 182 miles of public snowmobile trails. We partner with the Wisconsin DNR through the Glacial Heritage Area to coordinate a system of county-wide water trails. Our maintenance responsibilities also include all Jefferson County owned grounds as well as flood mitigation properties. Our department is very proud of the Parks System we maintain and is happy to share with you some of the highlights from the past year.

### **Grant Applications**

Grant applications submitted:

- Two DNR Stewardship and two DOT Bike Trails (TAP) Grants. The grants were written in an effort to construct the bike trails linking Watertown to Oconomowoc and Watertown to Waterloo.
- DNR Stewardship Grant for a handicap accessible pier at Rock River Park.
- DNR Stewardship Grant for the Gateway to Carnes Park East.

### **Dorothy Carnes County Park**

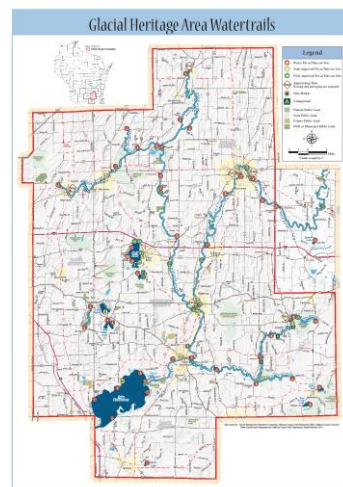
- Two primitive campsites were built at Carnes Park East, complete with hand pump well and single vault toilet.
- Four Interpretive signs were installed along trails at Dorothy Carnes Park West through donations made in Honor of Wally Miller, a friend and neighbor of the park.
- The second annual Mason Jar Jamboree helped to cap off the fundraising efforts to restore the Mason Log Home. In total, \$65,000.00 has been raised through grants and cash donations for the project. The log home will be going back up in July of 2014.

### **Glacial Heritage Area**

The department continues to work in partnership with the DNR on a variety of projects within the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA).

Accomplishments include:

- The second edition of the GHA Watertrails maps was completed. 20,000 maps were printed with funds raised by selling advertisement space to local businesses.
- Friends of the GHA continue to advocate, volunteer, and organize outdoor activities in the GHA. The group mailing list has soared to over 500 members, thanks to excellent advertising and strategic recruitment.
- Watertown Outboarders property purchased and moving forward.



## **Pohlman Park**



- A new agricultural themed park shelter was built during the late summer in 2013.

## **Glacial River Bike Trail**

- A new bike trail water fountain, complete with a pet watering station was installed along the GRT near Farmco Lane in Fort Atkinson.
- A new statue was donated to the bike trail in honor of Marcie Roahen titled “Ride like the Wind.” The sculpture is located at the end of Farmco Lane in Fort Atkinson where the county and city portions of the trail meet and depicts the late Marcie Roahen riding like the wind down the trail as she often did.
- Signage directing travelers on both the on-road and off road sections of the GRT were installed in late summer. This effort was coordinated with City of Watertown, Jefferson, Fort Atkinson, Milton, and Village of JC.



## **Garman Nature Preserve**



- A new hand pump well was installed at the Garman Nature Preserve during the spring of 2014. This complements the new restroom and shelter that was purchased through donations made by Mrs. Garman.
- A connector trail was installed to connect the Nature Preserve to the adjacent Waterloo Trailhead Facility.
- Fox Lane, the main entry road to the Garman Nature Preserve, was paved in conjunction with the Glacial Heritage Area project and the City of Waterloo.

## **Korth County Park**

- A fundraiser was held in August of 2013 to help raise funds for a new playground at Korth County Park. In all, \$25,000.00 was raised.
- Playground has been completed.





### **Rock River County Park**



- Shoreline Restoration project completed.
- The Watertown Outboarders' have donated \$25,000 for a boat launch pier on the property. They are currently working with a DNR engineer on the design of the pier and are looking to collaborate with the County on their pier projects.

### **Crawfish River County Park**

Crawfish River County Park, a 17 acre park, located immediately west of the city of Jefferson. The park contains 2,200 feet of shoreline along the Crawfish River. Special thanks goes to /Andy Didion and Friends of the Crawfish River County Park for providing Jefferson County with a check totaling \$56,000 for the purchase of the park. With the \$56,000, the County was able to pay 100% of the cost to acquire the property.

### **Jefferson County Dog Park**

- At a request from the Friends of The Dog Park, the hours at the park have been extended until 7:00 pm or dusk.
- Annual tags sold

### **Friends of GHA & Friends of Rose Lake**

Both friends groups continue to recruit and manage volunteers on projects, organize outdoor activities in our parks including bird walks, winter recreation activities, education, paddling outings, help with funding small park projects, and staff our parks department booth at events and fundraisers.

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